

*An Impartial Account of the present State of the HUDSON-BAY Company, as they stand Incorporated in a CHARTER granted them by King CHARLES the Second.*

**T**HE whole Number of Adventurers are about Thirty Persons in all: Their Original Subscriptions but Ten thousand Pounds, and that doth not appear by their Books to be half paid in.

THE Merchandize they Export are Trifles, viz. *Beads, Hawks-Bells, Brass-rings, Combs, Jack-knives, Coblers-Awls, Hatchets, Guns, Gun-Powder, Shott, Powder-horns, Tobacco, Kettles*, and a very small quantity of *Duffels*, and Course Red and Blue Cloth. The Value of their whole Cargo of Merchandize (*Provisions, and Victuals, for Seamen and Servants, excepted*) not exceeding Six hundred Pounds per Annum, *Communibus Annis*.

FOR this inconsiderable Trade, they have a boundless Charter, not only for the Sole-Trade of all *Seas, Bays, Creeks, Rivers, Lakes, &c.* from the Entrance of *Hudson Straits*, with all the Lands and Territories, upon the Countries, Coasts and Confines of the same: The Royalty of the Sea, and Propriety of the Land, with all Mines, Royal and otherwise, but also the Sole Trade of all *Havens, Rivers, &c.* into which they can find Entrance, or Passage by Land or Water, out of these Territories afore-said, whether discovered or not discovered, and the *Natives* and People Inhabiting in those Places, together with all other *Nation*. Inhabiting the Coasts adjacent to those Places; Exclusive to all Others.

AS they are Boundless in their Dominion, so Sovereign in Power, having a Grant to make Peace and War on all People, that contrary to their Charter shall interrupt them in their Trade; to Judge and Execute Judgement on all Persons in all Causes, whether Civil or Criminal, within any of the Countreys where they have Places of Trade: which Power they actually Executed, *Charles Bdon Esquire* deceased (and late a Member of *Parliament*) destroying or converting to their own use the Men in her Prisoners for several Months, because *Hudson's Straits*, on pretence of having infringed, when in truth they had not traded One Penny, nor met with success, then favouring their Abuses, did also maliciously prosecute the said *Bdon* and others concerned in the Ship, in the *Crown Office*, where that Vexatious Suite is now depending.

NOTWITHSTANDING these their great Immunities and Priviledges enjoyed more than Twenty Years, they have made no Discoveries beyond what they found set down in *Fox his Journals*, nor any considerable Improvement in Trade, either to the Advantage of the Nation, or themselves; but hinder all others so to do.

THERE is no need of a Joint Stock to carry on this Trade, nor Forts and Castles to secure it, the Native *Indians* being a People timorous, and more likely to be affrighted from Trading with us, by our appearing formidable, than to assault us, if defenceless; and the Truth is, the Nakedness of the Countrey, is the greatest Security to the Trade of that Place.

THOSE Forts pretended to be built by the *Hudson-Bay Company*, are no better than *Pig-Sties*, in *England*, nor of greater Strength; being a few *Pine-Trees*, squared and laid one upon another, and ramm'd only with *Moss*, to keep out the Wind.

THE Sum of all is this, The *Hudson's Bay Company's Charter* is boundless, and so void by Law; it gives Sovereign Power, which as we humbly conceive, is not consistent with the Wisdom of this Nation to grant. It was obtained upon a specious pretence of discovering the *North-West Passage* into the *South Seas*, which was never discovered. It ingrosses the greatest part of the Trade of *New-York*, and *New-England*, the most advantageous Trades to this Nation of any not Incorporated. It cramps Industry, and discourageth Ingenuity, and is in it self of no moment to the Nation.

THAT this diminutive Company (not regarded these Twenty Years, by reason of the little Figure it made in Trade) should now presume to Address itself to the High Court of Parliament, to be Established in a boundless Charter, when the Record doth afford any president of any Joint-Stock in this Nation, ever Established by Law (how specious soever their Pretences have been) is without Parallel.